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News Release



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CROP PRODUCTION – October 2010

COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado's **corn** for grain production is now forecast at 171.36 million bushels, up 13 percent from last year's crop of 151.47 million bushels but down 2 percent from the September 1 forecast. Average yield remains unchanged from the September forecast at 144.0 bushels per acre, but 9.0 bushels below last year. Areas planted and intended for grain were revised downward 20,000 acres from September 1 to 1.33 million and 1.19 million acres, respectively, based on administrative information. **Sorghum** for grain production for 2010 is expected to total 5.18 million bushels, up 9 percent from the September 1 forecast but down 23 percent from last year's crop. Average yield, at 37.0 bushels per acre, is up 3.0 bushels from the September 1 forecast but down 8.0 bushels from last year's results. The area planted and expected to be harvested for grain is unchanged from the September forecast at 210,000 and 140,000 acres, respectively. **Sugarbeet** production remains forecast at 778,000 tons, down 19 percent from the previous year. Yields are expected to average a record high 28.0 tons per acre compared with 27.5 tons per acre last year. The area for harvest is expected to total 27,800 acres, down from 35,000 acres harvested last year. The initial forecast of **all sunflower** production was placed at 131.20 million pounds, up 7 percent from the 2009 crop of 122.06 million pounds. The average expected yield of 1,093 pounds per acre is 310 pounds below last year. The revised estimated harvested acreage, at 120,000 acres, is up 13 percent from June's forecast of 106,000 based on administrative information. Last year producers harvested 87,000 acres. **Alfalfa hay** production is now forecast at 3.44 million tons, up 4 percent from last year and up 17 percent from the August forecast. **All other hay** production is forecast at 1.40 million tons, down 4 percent from last year's production but unchanged from August. Acreage harvested for alfalfa hay is expected to total 840,000 acres while all other hay harvested is expected to reach 780,000 acres this year. **Dry bean** production, is expected to hit 1,122,000 hundredweight, 274,000 hundredweight above last year. The average expected yield of 1700 pounds per acre is 100 pounds above the 2009 yield. Area planted was increased 5,000 acres from the August forecast to 70,000 acres based on administrative information and area for harvest is now expected to total 66,000 acres, 13,000 acres above last year.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn production is forecast at 12.7 billion bushels, down 4 percent from the September forecast and down 3 percent from last year's record production of 13.1 billion bushels. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 155.8 bushels per acre, down 6.7 bushels from the previous month and 8.9 bushels below last year's record of 164.7 bushels. Forecasted yields decreased from last month throughout much of the Corn Belt and Tennessee Valley. Illinois showed the largest decline, down 14 bushels per acre. Indiana and Iowa are both down 10 bushels from the previous month, while Missouri and Nebraska declined 9 bushels per acre. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 81.3 million acres, up less than 1 percent from the September forecast. Acreage updates were made in several States based on administrative data.

Sorghum production is forecast at 337 million bushels, down 10 percent from the September 1 forecast and 12 percent below last year. Based on updated administrative information, acreage changes were made in several States. Planted area is estimated at 5.40 million acres, down 10 percent from the previous forecast and down 19 percent from 2009. This is the lowest planted acreage on record. Harvested area is forecast at 4.66 million acres, down 10 percent from the previous forecast and 16 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest harvested acreage on record since 1936. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is forecast at 72.4 bushels per acre, down 0.3 bushel from September but up 3.0 bushels from last year. Record high yields are forecast in Louisiana and Texas.

Sugarbeets production for the 2010 crop year is forecast at 33.3 million tons, up 1 percent from the September 1 forecast and 12 percent above 2009. Producers expect to harvest 1.12 million acres, down 19,000 acres from September and down 24,100 acres from 2009. Expected yield is forecast at 29.6 tons per acre, an increase of 0.7 ton from the previous forecast and 3.9 tons from last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield for the United States. Record high yields are also expected in Colorado, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wyoming.

Sunflower production forecast for 2010 is 2.91 billion pounds, down 4 percent from 2009. Area planted, at 1.95 million acres, is down 7 percent from the June estimate and down 4 percent from last year. Sunflower growers expect to harvest 1.87 million acres, down 7 percent from June and down 4 percent from the 2009 acreage. The October yield forecast, at 1,552 pounds per acre, is 2 pounds lower than last year's record high yield.

Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures production is forecast at 71.3 million tons, down 2 percent from the August forecast but up slightly from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 3.44 tons per acre, down 0.05 ton from August but up 0.09 ton from last year. If realized, this will be the sixth highest yield on record. Harvested area is forecast at 20.7 million acres, unchanged from August but down 2 percent from the previous year's acreage.

Other hay production is forecast at 81.0 million tons, down 1 percent from the August forecast but up 6 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the third highest production level on record. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.08 tons per acre, down 0.01 ton from August but up 0.10 ton from last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield, surpassing the 2.06 tons per acre in 2004. Harvested area is forecast at 38.9 million acres, unchanged from August but up 1 percent from 2009.

United States **dry edible beans** production is forecast at 32.6 million cwt for 2010, up 6 percent from the August 1 forecast. Planted area is forecast at 1.90 million acres, up 7 percent from the August 1 forecast. Harvested area is forecast at 1.83 million acres, 7 percent above the August 1 forecast. The average United States yield is forecast at 1,783 pounds per acre, a decrease of 15 pounds from the August 1 forecast. If realized, this will be the highest yield on record. Production is expected to be higher than 2009 in 12 of the 18 producing States. Each of the top five producing States is anticipating higher production this year.